

CLAIMS

1. A joy-dial for providing input signals to a device, said joy-dial having a first and a second x-axis input position, a first and a second y-axis input position, and a first and a second directional input position, a joy pad, an elastically deformable diaphragm located below the joy pad corresponding to each of the x-axis and y-axis inputs, a contact located below and associated with each of the diaphragms and arranged so that pressure applied to the joy pad at one of the x- or a y-axis input positions results in deformation of the corresponding diaphragm and closure of the associated contact, and wherein the joy-dial further includes a first and a second directional contact, said first and second directional contacts being arranged so that they are closed upon movement of the joy-dial in a first or a second direction respectively.

2. A joy-dial according to claim 1 further including at least one diagonal input.

3. A joy-dial according to claim 2 having a diagonal input between each of the first y-axis and the second x-axis input, the second x-axis input and the second y-axis input, the second y-axis input and the first x-axis input and the first x-axis input and the first y-axis input.

4. A joy-dial according to claim 2 wherein pressure applied to a diagonal input position on the joy pad results in deformation of the associated diaphragms of the adjacent x- and y-axis inputs and closure of their associated contacts.

5. A joy-dial according to claim 1 further including a central input.

6. A joy-dial according to claim 5 wherein pressure applied to a central input position on the joy pad results in deformation of each of the diaphragms and closure of their associated contacts.

7. A joy-dial according to claim 1 further including an engagement means which is engaged during rotation of the joy pad and is arranged to push against a biasing means so as to close the associated first and second directional contact.

8. A joy-dial according to claim 7 wherein the biasing means restores the joy pad to a home position in which none of the contacts are closed once pressure applied by the user is removed.

9. A joy-dial according to claim 1 wherein movement of the joy-dial in the first or the second direction is achieved by respective clockwise and anti-clockwise rotation of the joy pad.

10. A joy-dial according to claim 1 wherein the joy pad can be rotated substantially 45° in either a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction about a z-axis.

11. A joy-dial according to claim 1 further including a base arranged for attachment to an information device or to a printed circuit board of a device and a cage means arranged to be connected to said base and to locate the joy pad there between.

12. A joy-dial according to claim 11 wherein a biasing means is located between the joy pad and an upper surface of the base.

13. A joy-dial according to claim 1 wherein the joy pad is marked to indicate the positioning of the input positions.

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1 14. A joy-dial according to claim 1 wherein the joy pad has an upper surface  
2 which is patterned to enhance grip to the joy pad by the user's finger.

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4 15. A joy-dial according to claim 1 wherein the joy pad is mounted for pivotal  
5 movement on a pivot means.

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7 16. A joy-dial according to claim 15 wherein the joy pad includes an  
8 engaging member on an underside, said engaging member being arranged to  
9 engage within a groove formed in an upper surface of said pivot means.

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11 17. A joy-dial according to claim 16 wherein the engaging member is located  
12 in a hollow or aperture formed in the underside of the joy pad.

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14 18. A joy-dial according to claim 16 wherein the groove is annular so as to  
15 enable the joy pad to turn in a clockwise or anticlockwise direction.

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17 19. A joy-dial according to claim 1 wherein the joy pad includes at least one  
18 thumb rail arranged to aid the user to rotate the joy pad.

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20 20. An information device having at least one joy-dial, said joy-dial being  
21 arranged to provide input signals to the device, said joy-dial having a first and a  
22 second x-axis input position, a first and a second y-axis input position, and a  
23 first and a second directional input position, a joy pad, an elastically deformable  
24 diaphragm located below the joy pad corresponding to each of the x-axis and y-  
25 axis inputs, a contact located below and associated with each of the  
26 diaphragms and arranged so that pressure applied to the joy pad at one of the  
27 x- or a y-axis input positions results in deformation of the corresponding  
28 diaphragm and closure of the associated contact, and wherein the joy-dial  
29 further includes a first and a second directional contact, said first and second  
30 directional contacts being arranged so that they are closed upon movement of  
31 the joy-dial in a first or a second direction respectively.

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1 21. A device according to claim 20 further including a microprocessor or the  
2 like which is arranged to detect closure of any of the contacts and to interpret  
3 such as a logical state change.

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5 22. A device according to claim 20 further including an operating system  
6 which is arranged to be informed by the micro processor of a logical state  
7 change and to in turn inform a software application which interprets the  
8 information for executing a corresponding or an associated action

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